

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Contact:**

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Eau Claire County Local Health Order Updates

Eau Claire, WI- August 5, 2020 3:10 PM- The Eau Claire City-County Health Department issued an updated order that will go into effect at 12:00 am on Thursday, August 6th. Eau Claire County is remaining in Step D of the [Respond Together Eau Claire Plan](#), with a few modifications.

Changes for this order include (1) new busing requirements and (2) the recommendation to review the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) guidelines for sports.

(1)Busing Requirements: When physical distance cannot be maintained between all individuals on mass transportation, such as buses or commercial vans, a capacity of 50% shall be observed in addition to the following requirements:

- Cloth face coverings shall be worn, unless medically unsafe to do so.
- Buses with set riders, such as those on a school bus route, shall have assigned seats and daily attendance shall be taken.
- Actively communicate with or screen riders regarding COVID-19-like symptoms prior to boarding.

(2)The new order also recommends reviewing [WIAA sport guidance](#) in addition to meeting order requirements for sport activities.

Among other things, the new order still permits:

- Public gatherings may have up to 100 people indoors and 250 people outdoors, with physical distancing between households maintained. Any public gathering of more than 50 people is strongly discouraged.
- Reduce occupancy to 50% of usual occupancy for businesses with a posted occupancy. For any business without a posted occupancy, consider reducing occupancy by 50%.
- Public spaces and buildings, indoor and outdoor, are required to consider policies that require face mask use by all workers, customers, visitors and guests.

The other requirements and recommendations for individuals, businesses, public spaces, personal one-on-one services, and indoor public gatherings remain in effect, including:

- Individuals are strongly encouraged to stay at home or their place of residence, minimize travel outside of the county, and keep their number of connections small

- Religious gatherings and other 1st Amendment-protected activities are exempt
- Elderly and vulnerable people are encouraged to take additional precautions
- Use of the WEDC guidance for business reopening by businesses that can first meet the requirements of the local order
- All individuals are strongly encouraged to continue maintaining physical distancing (in all settings except as outlined under 1-on-1 personal services), good hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, cleaning high-touch surfaces, not shaking hands, and follow other WI DHS and CDC recommendations

This order will be in effect until August 19, 2020. As we continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and evaluate what is needed for the protection of our community members, subsequent orders may be issued that provide additional direction for protecting community health based on public health data and other indicators within our community. The health and safety of all community members remains our highest priority.

Local Eau Claire County partners also released a joint statement on mask wearing today.

Please view it here: <https://www.eauclairewi.gov/Home/ShowDocument?id=33203>

More information on the Eau Claire City-County Health Department COVID-19 Prevention and Control Order and *Respond Together Eau Claire* Plan may be viewed here: <https://coronavirus-and-covid-19-information-hub-eccounty.hub.arcgis.com/pages/local-prevention>

Data related to COVID-19 disease status and community preparedness is available here: <https://coronavirus-and-covid-19-information-hub-eccounty.hub.arcgis.com/pages/local-statistics>

Please visit the covid19eauclaire.org website for more information. Questions from the public may be directed to the COVID-19 Call Center: 715-831-7425.

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Promoting health and safety for all Eau Claire communities